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Newsletter of **WILDCARE Inc**

Tasmania's largest incorporated volunteer organisation, caring for wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage.

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Tasmanian devil disaster

TASMANIA'S ICON, THE LARGEST SURVIVING carnivorous marsupial in the world, is suffering from a horrific facial cancerous tumour disease. No-one really knows what causes the disease or even how it is spread. It may be a virus spread when the animals bite each other. What we do know is that once the tumours are obvious, it seems a death warrant has been signed for that animal. Within six months that devil will probably be dead. What is also becoming clear is that once the disease gets into a population, it rapidly spreads throughout the older animals. However there is still much to learn and research and field investigations are taking place at a fantastic rate.

History of the disease

The disease was first seen in the mid 1990s but at the time it was believed to have been an isolated case. Devils have always been prone to cancerous tumours, usually of the internal organs and it is a common cause of death in old captive animals. Also Tasmanian devils can have massive scarring



on their faces, mostly as a result of fighting over a carcass or during the breeding season. As devils are cryptic animals and mainly active late at night, this disease might have gone unrecognised for much longer if researchers hadn't been monitoring for foxes as part of a fox eradication plan and studying wild devil populations. A couple of years ago it became clear that not only



were devil numbers crashing in some areas of Tasmania but also trapped devils were turning up with massive tumours on their faces. Immediately the Nature Conservation Branch went into action, setting up a team of people to work on the diseased devil issue.

What the disease means to breeding devils

Almost all individuals captured showing signs of the disease are two years or older except for one female from Mt William. To understand what an impact this disease is having on devils you need to understand their biology. Devils are very short-lived animals, only living for around six years in the wild. Up to four young can be raised in the pouch at once but they are not weaned until about eight months old. In the highland areas, females reach breeding size when about two years old. This means that devils in highland areas have very little opportunity to successfully breed and rear young to independence in diseased populations. Bronte Park is one area that the devil team has been monitoring to determine disease spread. When the area was first trapped in January about 50% of the traps caught devils. About a third of these devils were diseased. On the last trip to Bronte in July 2004, the devil

population had totally crashed with less than 10% of traps recording devils and the majority of animals were just over one year old. Only three breeding females were trapped here and both were diseased. One, Lucy, was so severely diseased and her pouch young so tiny she was taken into quarantine for observation and in the hope that her young could at least reach hand rearing age. Unfortunately Lucy's disease continued to progress at a horrific rate and her young recently died. Lucy has since been euthanased for humane reasons.

Statewide analysis of the devil population has identified populations with the disease and those that appear to be still disease free. The disease seems to be quite widespread in the south, north and east. So far it hasn't been discovered further west of Lake Rowallen in the north and Bronte in the Cental Highlands. It is vital that we continue to learn everything we can about this disease and there are some things you can do to help devils.

What you can do to help

Look for signs of devils on your property: Signs that you may have diseased animals include: diseased and disorientated devils wandering around during the daytime, dead stock or carrion not being cleaned up by devils or a decrease in devil activity such as vocalisations, footprints and scats. If you do come across a diseased devil please report it to the Nature Conservation Branch on 03 6233 6556. The team's response will be based on whether it is new information or a newly affected population and the resources they have available.

Road-killed or dead devils: Any diseased road-killed devils should be reported to the team. Do not touch any animals with your bare skin. Use gloves or plastic bags to remove the animal to the side of the road. Recording details such as age, sex, location and date as well as taking a mug shot of the head can be very useful.

Pouch young: Live pouch young must be handled with extreme care. Again do not handle without gloves. Do not hold the young directly against your skin to

warm. Place the animal(s) in a jumper, beanie or sock. It is best to use a heat source such as a hot-water bottle wrapped in a tea-towel or a heat pack. Contact the Nature Conservation Branch immediately and do not let the young have contact with any other animals. You will need to ensure any articles of clothing used are disinfected after contact with the devil. Make sure you check the mother for signs of disease and where possible get a photo of her face at least. There are strict guidelines for caring for orphan devils and it is illegal to keep them in your possession without a permit. If you are interested in becoming a devil carer please contact the Nature Conservation Branch.

Be kind to devils: They are having a tough time. Make life a bit easier for them. Leave good habitat on your land. Keep your pets confined at night. If you want to donate any time or money towards the devils then contact the Nature Conservation Branch to see how you can help. 🐾

By: Ingrid Albion, Education Officer, Parks and Wildlife Service, DPTHA.



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Land For Wildlife

RECOGNISE THIS SIGN? THE *LAND FOR Wildlife* sign shows that the property owner is a member of the scheme and committed to nature conservation on their land. *Land For Wildlife* is a completely voluntary, free, non-binding nature conservation scheme. Its aims are to encourage, support and recognise landholders taking a positive approach to the integration of property land management with nature conservation on private land and to promote community participation in nature conservation.


A large proportion of Tasmania's wildlife species and habitat types, which are poorly reserved on public land, occur on privately owned land. Many of the types of natural habitats considered essential for biodiversity conservation, or protection of threatened species occur outside of National Parks and Reserves. The survival of our native wildlife (plants and animals) and natural diversity



depends on the conservation, or restoration of suitable habitat as a means of protecting our land, waterways and wildlife in the future. Protection of diverse ranges of wildlife habitats today will assist in reducing the risk of species becoming threatened in the future.

The *Land For Wildlife* Scheme was first established in Victoria in 1981 to support people willing and keen to maintain native vegetation and wildlife habitats on their property. It has grown into a national program with the *Land*



For Wildlife Scheme established in Tasmania in 1998. Currently in Tasmania there are 435 properties registered, covering 38,673 ha with approximately a further 40 properties in the process of being assessed and registered. The scheme is supported by trained volunteer *Land For Wildlife* assessors through a collaborative partnership with **WILDCARE** Inc. 

MORE INFO: If you would like to know more about the scheme, or to discuss having your property registered, contact the Tasmanian Land For Wildlife Coordinator — Ph: 6233 6427, Mob: 0418 545 970, Email: <Iona.Mitchell@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.

Brown Mountain — White Kangaroo River.
(Photo: I. Mitchell).

Supporting private property owners committed to nature conservation


Land for Wildlife Scheme.

Protected Areas on Private Land Program.

Private Forest Reserve Program.

WILDCARE INC WOULD LIKE TO investigate the ways in which members might be interested in supporting property owners committed to managing for nature conservation on their land. A number of programs (see above) led by the Department of Primary Industry Water & Environment's Resource Management & Conservation Division, encourage and support private land owners to manage for nature conservation outcomes. Significant areas of land are now protected and appropriately managed under these programs throughout Tasmania.

Of course, a whole lot more good conservation work could be done on these properties if landholders could get assistance on-the-ground and with technical advice. It would seem that **WILDCARE** Inc members could easily assist with both (we have enormous practical skills and knowledge expertise in our membership) and help these property owners achieve real and long lasting results. Let's help those who are doing the right thing, so that they can serve as models and motivators for others who may not as

yet see the value of nature conservation on their land. 

MORE INFO: Are you interested in supporting these committed landowners? Are you willing to come together with others to discuss the programs, the property owners and their commitments and

possible ways in which WILDCARE members could be assisting? If so, please contact: Iona Mitchell, Land for Wildlife Scheme Coordinator, Ph: 03 6233 6427, Email: <Iona.Mitchell@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>. Depending on interest levels, we will organise a suitable date and place for a get together, to hear about the programs and discuss future steps.

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New members and first-time Annual Park Pass purchase

If you know someone who wishes to purchase both their membership and an Annual Park Pass for the first time, they will need to complete both the Annual Park Pass Application Form and the **WILDCARE** Inc membership form with separate payments attached. Renewal notices for the Annual Park Pass will be sent to you automatically from Parks and Wildlife Service in subsequent years. So, **when purchasing an Annual Park Pass for the first time, along with your membership of WILDCARE Inc, simply complete an Annual Park Pass Application Form and attach it to your WILDCARE Inc membership form.** You can make the payments at Service Tasmania Shops or Parks Field Centres. If you mail the forms into the

WILDCARE Inc Office with payments attached, **WILDCARE** Inc will process your membership, allocate a membership number and pass this information to Parks and Wildlife Service making you eligible for the discounted Annual Park Pass rate. Parks and Wildlife Service will then send out your Annual Park Pass.

We will continue to investigate methods of increasing the convenience for first time members over the next 12 months.

Important — membership renewal forms in the newsletter

It becomes more important than ever to renew your **WILDCARE** membership on time so that you are eligible for the above discounts. **Use the WILDCARE membership renewal form, contained in this newsletter or the final newsletter for the year in**

December, to renew your membership for 2005.

Providing more resources for Park management and protection

The increased rates for the Park Passes will provide much needed additional funds for the management and protection of our National Parks. The Parks and Wildlife Service continues to acknowledge the enormous value of the volunteer work provided by **WILDCARE** Inc by continuing to offer a \$20 discount to **WILDCARE** members. A great way of saying thankyou for the in excess of \$10 million dollar value of volunteer time provided each year by **WILDCARE** members. 🌱

By: Andrew Smith, Co-Chair, **WILDCARE** Inc.

PWS Southern District Volunteer Training Program

AS THIS EDITION OF **WILDTIMES** GOES to press **WILDCARE** members involved with Parks and Wildlife Service managed projects across the PWS Southern District are attending training courses in preparation for a busy summer spring and summer ahead.

The PWS Volunteer Training Program, jointly funded by PWS and **WILDCARE**, is offering **WILDCARE** members, and other volunteers, opportunities to train in a range of areas including:

- General first aid
- Bushland weed management
- Brushcutter use
- Volunteer group management

Craig Saunders, volunteer facilitator at PWS Huonville, explained that the aim of the program was to give volunteer groups skills necessary to safely and efficiently manage their own projects.

“We all know that Parks staff do not always have the time to bring specialist skills or supervision to volunteer projects, so this program allows groups to get on



with the work themselves, while still satisfying our stringent occupational health and safety guidelines”, Craig said.

Craig was especially pleased to be able to offer a 3-day course in Bushland Weed Management as part of the program. He explained:

“Bushland weed management is one of the most common tasks undertaken by volunteer groups in reserves across Tasmania. Until now the only nationally recognised short course in weed control

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and herbicide use has been the Chemcert qualification. This course has generally been offered with a commercial agriculture focus, with little relevance to bushland weeds."

"With input from PWS, DPIWE weed officers and several local councils TAFE have now developed a course that can deliver the same ChemCert qualification but with a bushland weed focus. The course is ideal for key members of groups managing a weed problem, addressing not only herbicide use, but the full range of management skills necessary in this area."

Major projects that will benefit from the training program include:

- Friends of Maatsuyker Island group weeding program on the island in November (see article in this issue)
- Friends of Mt Field repair works on Lake Newdegate Hut
- **WILDCARE** members weeding projects at Coningham
- Friends of Adventure Bay works on Bruny Island
- and many other volunteer projects across the district. 🌿

By: Craig Saunders, PWS Huonville.

New Insurance arrangements for PWS Projects

FROM 1 JULY 2004 INSURANCE provisions for **WILDCARE** members (and any other volunteers) working with the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) on public land have changed.

From this date PWS have taken over responsibility for **WILDCARE** member insurance (public liability and personal accident) from **WILDCARE** for all volunteer works on PWS managed public land. This insurance will be provided through the state government's Tasmanian Risk Management Fund.

This change has been brought about through changes in PWS specific legislation and in recognition of PWS 'duty of care' to all volunteers on public land. This responsibility requires PWS to provide a safe working place for all

volunteers, in turn requiring PWS to manage all aspects of occupational health and safety, including insurance.

New arrangements will result in **WILDCARE** members having to complete PWS Volunteer Registration Forms, a process necessary to track volunteer work in the event of any future insurance claim.

WILDCARE members can be assured that while there may be some minor changes to procedures the mutually

supportive partnership between PWS and **WILDCARE** will continue. PWS will continue to request assistance from **WILDCARE** Inc members through the call-up process and will continue to support **WILDCARE** CAREs groups as an effective system of community groups working with PWS.

Note that for volunteer works with other agencies, and on non-public land, **WILDCARE** insurance is still available to members for projects approved in the normal manner (see **WILDCARE** Inc Book — Procedures Manual). 🌿

By: Craig Saunders, PWS Huonville.

MORE INFO: If members have any queries on the new arrangements please contact WILDCARE co-chair Andrew Smith on Ph: 03 6233 2836 or any of the PWS district volunteer facilitators.

Reports from Presidents

PRESIDENTS OF **WILDCARE** COMMUNITY Action in Reserves (CAREs) groups provided the following brief reports about what their groups have been up to, for the Board of Management Meeting.

We hope to include President's reports in the newsletter as a regular thing, so that we all know a bit more about what **WILDCARERS** are doing around the traps.

Just in these few reports the variety of work and approaches is impressive:

- reserve management planning
- works programming
- weed management planning

- weed removal
- walking track construction
- developing interpretation signs
- promoting private land protection through covenants
- visitor information and education
- working cooperatively with CVA volunteers, Work for the Dole participants, Green Reserve volunteers, Tourism organisations, Councils, Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry

These activities are funded by our partners, internal grants and external grants.

Presidents who are unable to attend a



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Board of Management meeting are encouraged to forward a short written report about goings on, similar in length to those below, to the Board Meeting, and we will publish it in the following newsletter.

Groups and individual members are of course also encouraged to contribute articles about any of their voluntary work that they feel may be of interest to the rest of us. Articles should be emailed to Jennifer Partridge <Editor@wildcarea.org.au> with electronic photos attached separately to the text.

Friends of Mount Barrow — Ben Brooks

Friends of Mount Barrow are presently working with PWS in developing a draft management strategy for the mountain and falls reserves in the area. Our main focus is to establish a strategic vision for the work needed to be done in the reserve and to rank this work in terms of how significant each is to maintain or improve the natural and cultural heritage of the reserves. This will serve as a guide for working bees etc.

Another major project involves working with Protected Areas on Private Land Program (PAPL) for the development of a perpetual corridor between the Mountain and Falls reserves by negotiating conservation covenants with local landowners. Two covenants are under negotiation at the moment.

Friends of Kate Reed Reserve Launceston — Rodney Milner

The Friends of Kate Reed Reserve have been busy completing the boardwalk funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund. Our next task was to continue with the track construction, unfortunately the wet weather has arrived which means we are unable to transport our stockpile of shale to the area where we have been working. This means it is time to inform the troops that its back to the weed removal so there is still plenty we can do. Unfortunately we are still having trouble with motorbikes tearing up our tracks and doing burnouts on the new boardwalk.

The group has been unable to secure

another Green Reserve team this year so we have opted for a volunteer Work for the Dole project instead. At present we have two participants with another potential participant in the wings. These groups have given a huge boost to our Reserve and I would encourage other groups to consider this option to boost their groups. If anybody wants information on the Work for the Dole program I am happy to talk to anyone about it.

Friends of the Wild West Coast — Julie Marshall

Our **WILDCARE** group was formed in July 2003, after a meeting with Andrew Smith. We approached West Coast Council and Parks and Wildlife in October 2003 to form a 3 way partnership with us to adopt the Strahan Historic Foreshore Walking Track. This agreement was finally signed off in January 2004.

Since then we have held 4 working bees at which we've removed invasive weeds and litter along the track. We also held a working bee at Swan Basin (a beautiful picnic area on Forestry land — with Forestry Tasmania permission) to remove invasive weeds.

We were successful in applying for a team from Conservation Volunteers Australia to help us with weed removal for two days in March 2004. The CVA team targeted our biggest problems — canary broom, holly, New Zealand flax and cotoneaster. They did a fantastic job and enjoyed themselves too thanks to the great support we received from the community. This was a really positive

experience for all involved.

We plan to begin revegetation in a few areas along the track as suggested by Andrew Welling who is preparing a management plan for the track for us. The funding from **WILDCARE** Inc will assist with this.

We are also working on plans for interpretation along the track. We will be applying for a \$5,000 tourism grant when the next round comes out in about Aug/Sept. We have support for this from Wayne Bolton (Cradle Coast Tourism Tas), who, at our request, came to Strahan and walked the track with us along with representatives from Parks and Wildlife and West Coast Tourism. West Coast Council were invited but didn't attend. We have hired local photographer, writer and artist, Rick Eaves to begin research for this interpretation and we are planning a number of local fund raising events for this.

Friends of Maatsuyker Island — Jill Thiele

A successful annual meeting was held at Cow to elect the committee for a short term. The current office bearers were elected unopposed. This next term will run till February 2005 so elections can occur prior to the **WILDCARE** AGM.

The new Caretakers have headed down to Maatsuyker Island and Cliff and Gail Truelove have completed their 6 month stay. They thoroughly enjoyed their time and particularly enjoyed the building working bee coordinated by Craig Saunders from Southern Parks. Much needed repairs to a number of the buildings were completed.

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The Maatsuyker Committee is busy with the next working bee — a 10 day weeding bash to be held in November prior while the Shearwaters are away from the island. Our treasurer Karen Ziegler is coordinating this event.

Tamar Island Wetlands Volunteers — Julie Nermut

Gambusia projects: This survey was conducted in early March with the help of Tamar Island Wetlands Volunteers and Fishcare Volunteers. The survey was coordinated by Inland Fisheries and based at Tamar Island Wetlands Centre.

Special funding for Gambusia project: In February we were notified that we would receive a Priority Action Grant of \$54,000 for our project, "Investigate Distribution and Control of *Gambusia holbrooki*." The position of Project Officer for this project was advertised in May. Interviews were conducted recently with the position being offered to Rodney Milner. Rodney has begun work on the project and can be contacted on <gambusia@wildcaretas.org.au>.

If you would like to know more about the project see also article below.

WILDCARE Inc Grant: Thanks to the Board of Management, we were granted our request of \$1,700 for audio-visual equipment for use by the volunteers at the Centre. This equipment has now been purchased and will give a professional approach to our interpretation projects and enhance the visitor experience.

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Cartledge Agency would like to thank all WILDCARE members for their past support and look forward to future dealings.

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BUT WE CAN SURE HELP YOU TO LOOK AFTER THEM!

WILDCARE Inc. c/o The Treasurer PO Box 72 WESTBURY TAS 7300		
Profit & Loss Statement		
1/01/03 through 31/12/03		
REVENUE		
4-1000	Member Subscriptions	\$1,115.96
4-1000	Grants	27,111.00
4-4000	Interest Received	\$7.17
4-2000	External Projects Income	\$11,832.64
4-7000	Donations Income	15,120.00
4-5000	Trading Income	35.00
	Total REVENUE	57,991.77
EXPENDITURE		
6-4000	Advertising & Promotion	\$10.00
6-4100	Annual Conference Costs	28,100.00
6-1300	Accounting & Audit Costs	2,375.00
6-1900	Bank Charges	2,620.70
6-1700	PHN Costs	750.00
6-2000	Equipment Purchases	1,135.75
6-2000	External Projects Costs	\$25,516.00
6-4100	Insurance	\$27,127.00
6-4200	Interest Expenses	\$1,042.00
6-4700	Legal & Professional Fees	\$1,476.10
6-5100	Office Expenses	320.10
6-5200	Postage	2105.40
6-5300	Printing & Stationery	\$1,965.84
6-5400	Project Launch - WILDCARE	\$25,245.00
6-5500	Professional Fees	\$7,475.70
6-3000	Sundry Expenses	\$20.00
6-1000	WILDTIMES Newsletter	\$1,377.50
	Total EXPENDITURE	\$151,541.50
	Operating Profit	6,450.27
4-0000	Other Income	
6-0000	Other Expenses	
	Net Surplus/Deficit	3,125.50

Gambusia Project — Rodney Milner

The Tamar Island CAREs Group/WILDCARE Inc received funds from the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust Fund, with the support of NRM North, to employ a Project Officer to undertake the *Gambusia* Project. The funding received will be used to raise public awareness of the introduced pest fish, *Gambusia holbrooki*, determine the extent of its distribution and to investigate possible control methods. The Project Officer will be working with the community in conjunction with the *Gambusia* Management Committee, Inland Fisheries Service (IFS), Parks and Wildlife and the Dept of Primary Industries Water and Environment who are supporting the position with office space and so on.

I was lucky enough to get the Project Officers position, starting in the position in the middle of July. Since beginning I have set up my office with the DPIWE's Community Partnerships at the State Government Offices at Prospect and together with the Project Steering Committee developed a works program. Given that the main focus of the

position is community education I have just completed the Fishcare Volunteer Classroom Training Program at the Woodbridge District high School. I have already given two presentations, one to the Quamby Fly Fishing Club and one to the new Waterwatch Coordinators. I have also spoken to and provided information to the various NRM Facilitators in the Regions.

External Grants received by WILDCARE Inc. for projects being undertaken by our groups.

WILDCARE inc, through the efforts of our Community Action in Reserves groups, has been quite successful in attracting external funds for projects our members are undertaking. Here are some of the most recent projects to be funded externally. Note "Other Contributions" in the main relates to the voluntary hours committed to the project by group members to match the cash provided by the Grant Program.

Tamar Island Wetlands CAREs
Investigate Distribution & Control of Gambusia holbrooki



NHT Regional — \$53,500

Other Contributions — \$56,800

Current technical advice is that this species is expected to pose a significant threat to Tasmanian freshwater ecosystems yet very little is known as to how established it has become or of the best means to control it. This Priority Action will deliver the distribution and management information to inform Regional Strategic Planning processes and raise community awareness of the issue.

Riverkeeper

Riverkeeper Nursery and river rehabilitation project

Work for the Dole Program — \$16,000

Riverkeeper Dave Turner is coordinating this project. The project runs a community Nursery producing native plants for rehabilitation works while providing work experiences for unemployed participants.

Friends of Kate Reed Reserve

Protection and Restoration of Priority vegetation in Kate Reed Reserve

Envirofund — \$5,552

Other Contributions — \$10,957

Project includes weed removal to improve the natural vegetation community. Revegetation will be by seeds, collected locally and propagated by volunteers and school groups. A boardwalk will be constructed to prevent further degradation of wetlands. Interpretive signs will provide information to visitors.

Friends of Lillico Beach Penguins

Upgrading Penguin Containment Fence & Revegetating Habitat at Lillico

Envirofund — \$2,773

Other Contributions — \$43,738

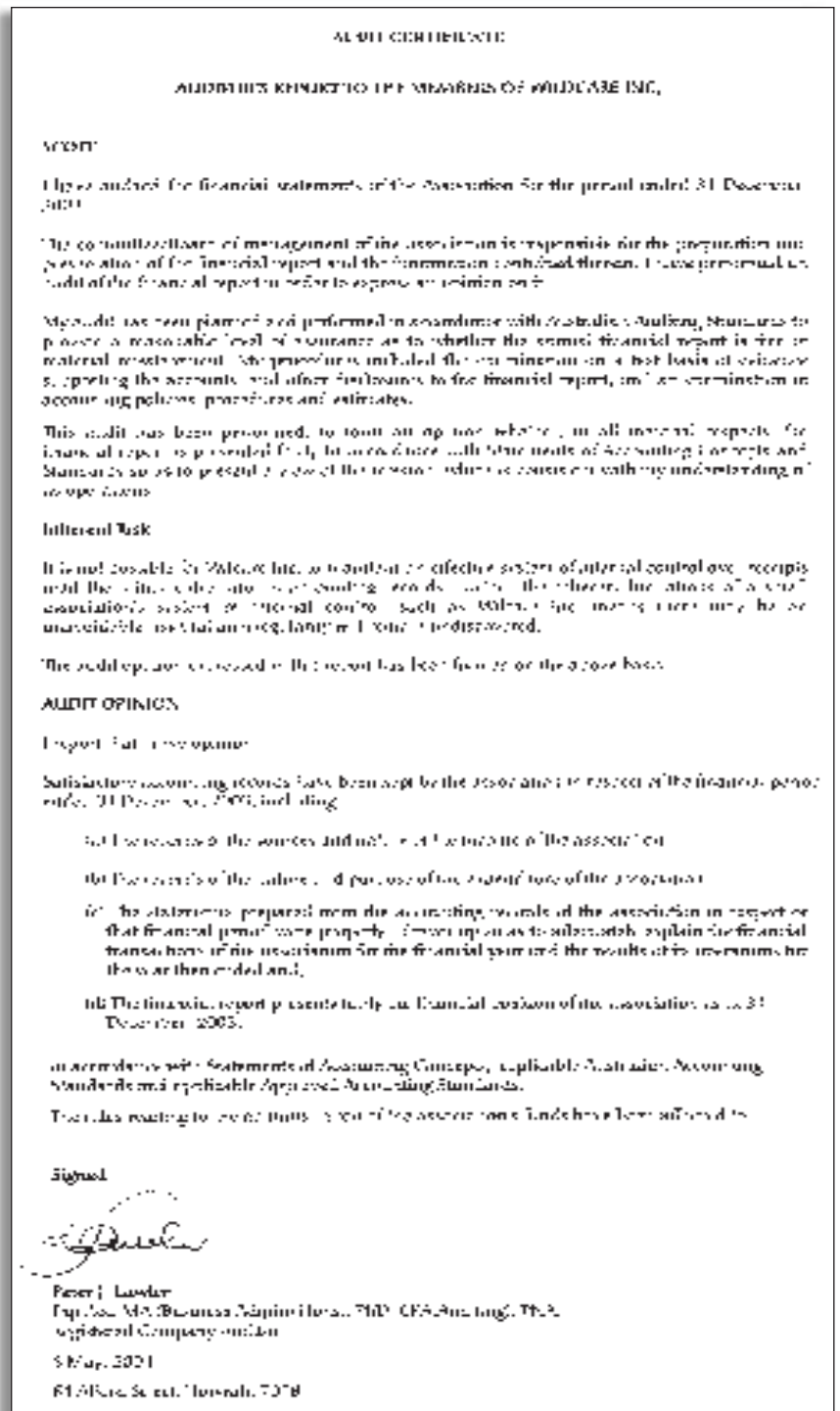
The project will upgrade and strengthen 1.5 km of the penguin fence that was damaged by traffic along the side of the Bass Highway. Reflectors will be installed. 350 plants will be established to screen nesting sites. Weeds will be removed.

Outlook Mt Roland

Mt Roland Regional Reserve Interpretative Brochures & Signage

Envirofund — \$6,455

Other Contributions — \$9,230



The project will place interpretive signboards within the Mt Roland Reserve

Friends of Maatsuyker Island

Restoration of Migratory Bird Natural Habitat on Maatsuyker Island

Envirofund — \$17,710

Other Contributions — \$21,340

The project will rehabilitate migratory seabird rookeries. Environmental weeds will be eradicated from the island.

Friends of Snake Island

Restoration of Forty Spotted Pardalote Habitat on Snake Island

Envirofund — \$11,170.50

Other Contributions — \$18,390

Project will restore native vegetation on Snake Island by removing weeds and replanting with *Eucalyptus viminalis* and other local species.

Friends of Mt Barrow

Purchase of tools and equipment
Department of Family and Community Services
Volunteer Small Equipment Grants — \$693.40

Funding will purchase a range of specified tools for use by the group. 🌱

WILDCARE Small Project Grants Scheme

January 2003 — August 2004

WILDCARE INC HAS AN INTERNAL grants program for small projects undertaken in cooperation with our partners. A limit of \$2,500 per project applies in most cases. The following table lists the projects funded since January 2003 — amounting to \$30,150.79. Funding is in addition to the many thousands of volunteer hours provided by our members to these and other projects. Members provide 250,000 hours of on-ground voluntary assistance each year — an equivalent of over \$6 million dollars each year.

Southern KarstCare

Contact: Karstcare South

Amount Granted: \$1,345

Conditions:

- Funds for these items are granted to assist management works in Caves — P Hangars, Glue, Nozzles, Drill bit, Spit remover
- The equipment is to be purchased and retained by the district office.

Kate Reed Reserve Walking Track Reconstruction — Stage 3

Contact: Rodney Milner, Friends of Kate Reed

Amount Granted: \$1,579

Conditions:

- Approved.

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Cradle Mountain Field Trip — Tamar Island Volunteer Development

Contact: Julie Nermut, Friends of Tamar Island Wetlands

Amount Granted: \$450

Conditions:

- Subject to confirmation of the training component — i.e. a copy of the training itinerary to be forwarded to the Board
- Meal allowance of \$500 not supported.

Repainting French's Farmhouse

Contact: David Reynolds, Friends of Maria Island

Amount Granted: \$280

Conditions:

- Cost of paint only.
- The Board believes the fuel costs for boat transport are the responsibility of the PWS/District.

Demountable Wildlife Rehabilitation Enclosures

Contact: Lorraine McDonald, Bush Baby Carers (Tamar)

Amount Granted: \$2,278

Conditions:

- The work to be carried out in close consultation with Nature Conservation Branch staff
- All non-perishable materials and equipment remains the property of WILDCARE Inc, to be held by the WILDCARE Bush Baby Carers.

On going care and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife

Contact: Judy Synott, NW Wildlife Rescue

Amount Granted: \$1,878

Conditions:

- The work to be carried out in close consultation with Nature Conservation Branch staff
- All non-perishable materials and equipment remains the property of WILDCARE Inc, to be held by the Northwest Wildlife Rescue group.

Whale Rescue Training courses

Contact: Barry Wells, Member

Amount Granted: \$400

Conditions:

- Agreed to fund up to \$400 to cover venue hire and catering for 5 courses

- The following items were not funded by the Board:
 - Banners \$750 — recommended that Andrew Irvine discuss other opportunities with Community Partnerships Section
 - Advertisement in print media \$500 — as these courses are primarily aimed at WILDCARE inc members, promotion should be carried out through the WILDCARE newsletter and/or mail outs to registered volunteers in the first instance. If media advertising is required in addition to this it is recommended that Andrew Irvine discuss other opportunities with Community Partnerships Section
 - Brochures and Stickers \$850 — not supported.

Melaleuca Track Warden Volunteer Program

Contact: Craig Saunders, PWS

Amount Granted: \$2,500

Conditions:

- Pilot Project funding only. Review next year
- Keen to see this become part of the PWS budget process
- A Partnership Agreement to be developed between PWS and WILDCARE Inc for future provision of the Program by volunteers.

Flinders Island Weed Eradication

Contact: Jamie Cooper, Wildweeders

Amount Granted: \$1,470

Conditions:

- Approval does not include purchase of food supplies.

Melaleuca Plains Track Restoration

Contact: Stuart Graham, PWS

Amount Granted: \$1,600

Conditions:

- Air fares only
- Approval does not include personal safety equipment. WILDCARE happy to assist with an application to the Small Equipment Grants Scheme for a stock of such equipment.

Friends of Kent Group National Park

Contact: Christian Bell, Friends of Kent Group

Amount Granted: \$1,750

Conditions:

- Approved to the value of \$1,750
- This includes charter of vessel from Deal To Flinders Island \$950 and charter of aircraft \$780 (Bridport-Flinders Return).

Cradle Mountain — Additional Tools



for WILDCARE Trailer**Contact:** Eddie Firth, PWS**Amount Granted:** \$804**Conditions:**

- Tools remain the property of **WILDCARE** inc, and must be available to **WILDCARE** volunteers operating in the District.

Friends of Mountain Festival — supporting performance of Mountain Orchestra during Mountain Festival**Contact:** Angie McGowan**Amount Granted:** \$2,000**Conditions:**

- Funding approved
- **WILDCARE** Inc to be acknowledged as Festival sponsor.

Animal Shelters native orphaned and injured animals**Contact:** Peter Power, North East Wildlife Carers (North)**Amount Granted:** \$2,217**Conditions:**

- The shelters remain the property of **WILDCARE**
- The work to be carried out in close consultation with NCB.

Animal Shelters for native orphaned and injured animals**Contact:** Caroline Shemwell, North East Wildlife Carers (South)**Amount Granted:** \$2,460**Conditions:**

- The shelters remain the property of **WILDCARE**
- The work to be carried out in close cooperation with PWS.

Old Moreys Hut Urgent Restoration/Preservation Works — Schouten Island**Contact:** Friends of Freycinet**Amount Granted:** \$2,300**Conditions:**

- Work to be carried out in close consultation with Jo Lyngcoln (PWS)
- There is no commitment to fund repairs or replacement of sign in the future
- PWS to pay for fuel for the PWS boat
- Demonstrated actual hire costs for charter boat up to \$500
- **WILDCARE** logo to be placed on the sign
- **WILDCARE** to approve acknowledgment wording on sign.


Adopt-A-Track — Strahan Historic Foreshore Walking Track Tools and equipment**Contact:** Kathy Butler, Friends of the

Wild West Coast

Amount Granted: \$2,339**Conditions:**

- The equipment remains the property of **WILDCARE**
- Arrangement made with PWS or Local Government Office for the storage of tools
- Stationery and Local media promotion expense not approved.

Volunteer Training Program for Community Conservation Groups**Contact:** Peter Franklin**Amount Granted:** \$2,500**Conditions:**

- Promotion of all courses through this program to be through the **WILDCARE** Office and/or Bulletin Board on the **WILDCARE** webpage. 

Earthwatch launches Communities for Conservation program

Fellowships for conservation group members

MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND conservation groups around Australia have the opportunity to join scientists on an Earthwatch research project free of charge under Earthwatch's new Communities for Conservation program. Fellowships will be awarded to seven lucky individuals who actively participate in local environmental incorporated conservation group. The program aims to further increase participants' understanding and knowledge of environmental and cultural issues facing Australia. It will see them join leading conservation scientists on a field trip to either the bio-diverse wetlands at the mouth of the Murray River or the

agricultural outback near Holbrook in New South Wales.

The first project will be held in January 2005 with Dr David Paton from the University of Adelaide. Members of the group will assist in researching and monitoring changes to the fragile ecosystem of the Coorong wetlands on the Earthwatch Waterbirds of the Coorong project. The Coorong Wetlands are heritage listed under the RAMSAR Convention. This Earthwatch project will enable scientists to assess the impact local agriculture is having on food availability for the millions of migratory waterbirds that use the lagoon every year.

The second project will be held in April and will be jointly led by Dr David Freudenberger from CSIRO Sustainable

CALL-UP CALL-UP CALL-UP CALL-UP

Native Plant Nursery — call for assistance

Riverkeeper Native Plant Community Nursery at Timsbury Road, Glenorchy

SCHOOL HOURS — MONDAY, Thursday and Friday (with possibility of other days with special arrangements).

A few hours occasionally or on a regular basis.

Pricking out, propagating, tidying up around nursery site.

Contact Dave Turner Ph: 03 6244 7017.

Riverkeeper is working in partnership with **WILDCARE** Inc to lead a project under the Work for the Dole program. Up to 10 long term unemployed people attend regularly at the Nursery. However, Dave would like a more constant support group, with a particular need for extra work at the moment. It is hoped that there will be a strong link between the Riverkeeper Community Nursery and the WILDSC'OOOL program — once we get the WILDSC'OOOL program up and going.

Ecosystems and Dr Geoff Barrett. Members will investigate the return of bird communities to re-established tree plots on agricultural land in Holbrook NSW. The aim of this project is to assist farmers in understanding the benefits of revegetation and to assist them in their design and management of vegetation areas.

Fellowships will include:

- Expedition costs, including food and accommodation
- \$400 travel allowance or \$400

towards a second person's expedition costs

- Earthwatch T-shirt
- Earthwatch individual and group subscription.

A requirement of the fellowships is that successful applicants share their experience with their community group and write a small news article on the experience.

The Earthwatch Institute supports over 130 conservation research projects around the world annually. The not-for-

profit organisation funds the projects by enabling paying volunteers — from all walks of life — to work alongside scientists in the field to collect vital research data. Participants range in age from 10 to 80 and do not need any previous experience. 🌱

MORE INFO: For further information and application details for the Earthwatch Communities for Conservation Fellowships, contact Emily Boldiston, Earthwatch — Ph: 03 9682 6828, Email: <earth@earthwatch.org>, Web: <www.earthwatch.org/australia>. Applications close on November 15, 2004.

Tasmanian National Parks Association — People for the Parks

About the TNPA

THE TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS Association Inc. (TNPA) was formed in June 2001 and is a non-profit, non-government organisation committed to the protection of Tasmania's National Parks and reserved lands. The Association aims to give park users a voice and involve the community in matters affecting these important and invaluable areas. The TNPA can help policy makers and managers identify public concerns and criticisms, as well as public appreciation.

parks to be exploited for narrow commercial interests at the expense of nature conservation and for the benefit of developers only.

The TNPA has been instrumental in preventing proposed developments at Maria Island and Pumphouse point, Lake St Clair — but large scale development remains on the agenda. Pumphouse point is up for tender again. Meanwhile approval has been given to David Marriner of Stage Designs Pty Ltd to construct a new road 800m into the Southwest National Park, to build a

lodge and tavern, 80 cabins, a 50m jetty, boathouses and spas, parking for 90 cars and four bus bays. An exclusive deal for Cockle Creek East!

The TNPA believes our national parks are vital areas for conservation, and development must be kept outside park boundaries. Help us protect our supposedly protected areas — and celebrate the uniqueness of these places. Our parks need your help! Get involved and join the TNPA today!

Membership Fees only: \$10 single, \$20 family.

The Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc — Welcomes Peter Cundall as our patron. 🌱

MORE INFO: For updates on current campaigns and activities, and membership information, visit our website at <www.tnpa.asn.au>. Enquires — Ph: 03 6224 9011, Email: <admin@tnpa.asn.au>, Postal address: PO Box 2188, Hobart 7001.

Why an Association?

In a world of increasing economic imperatives, the very values for which parks and reserves have been set aside, and the very values that users so dearly cherish, are all too frequently dismissed in the name of development. It is the aim of the Tasmanian National Parks Association to ensure that policy makers and managers put conservation at the forefront.

The range of issues affecting national parks is vast, including conservation management, track work, interpretation, adequate staffing, boundary management and tourism activities. The future of our parks is vulnerable to inappropriate development approved without adequate consideration of environmental consequences or community consent. There is also an increasing practice of the quiet rewriting of park management plans to allow our

Melaleuca Volunteer Caretaker Program: Summer 2004–2005

THIS SUMMER THE PARKS AND Wildlife Service, with **WILDCARE** funding assistance, will trial a Volunteer Caretaker Program at Melaleuca. The proposed program will be similar in some ways to existing **WILDCARE** sponsored programs such as the remote islands caretaker programs (Maatsuyker and Deal Islands) and the Overland Track Hut Wardens Program.

In general terms the program will provide for 1 or 2 volunteers to stay in the PWS staff quarters at Melaleuca and provide visitor information and minor maintenance services in the immediate vicinity of the Melaleuca 'settlement' (Melaleuca Visitor services Site) for periods of around 14 days.

The Melaleuca Volunteer Caretakers will be separate from but work

alongside the volunteers taking part in the Orange Bellied Parrot Recovery Program and may have the opportunity to be involved in this project.

The program will commence in mid December 2004 and run through to late March (Easter) 2005. If you are interested in spending an extended period in this remote corner of Tasmania's World Heritage Area, mixing volunteer duties with exploration of the area contact Craig Saunders at the Huonville PWS Office. 🌱

By: Craig Saunders, PWS Huonville.

*MORE INFO: Please call Craig Saunders at PWS Huonville for an application form — Ph: 03 6264 8463, Email: <Craig.Saunders@parks.tas.gov.au>. Application forms are also available on the **WILDCARE** bulletin board at <www.wildcarea.org.au>.*



Overland Hut Wardens celebration @ Cradle Mountain

ANOTHER SUMMER (THE 7TH YEAR SO far) on the Overland track has been successfully completed by the amazing **WILDCARE** Inc Overland Track Hut Wardens. Time to celebrate the success of the program! Over half of the **WILDCARE** volunteers who participated in the 03/04 Overland Track Hut Wardens program last season

attended a celebration dinner and get-together at Cradle Mountain on Saturday night 17th July.

The celebration was organised to recognise the commitment and effort that the volunteers give annually to the management and conservation of this iconic track, and to the safety, comfort and knowledge of walkers on the track.



WILDCARE's — the Motley Crew — L to R Bill Forsyth, Sue Berry, Ian Berry, Maddie Dyer, Sophie Dyer, Merran Dyer, Tim Dyer, Justin Dyer, Alastair Dyer, Wayne Binns, Terese Binns, Ken Fraser, Rosanna & Marianne Watson, Chris Leitch.

OBP@Melaleuca & Birches

THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT (OBP) recovery program is running again at both Melaleuca in Bathurst Harbour and Birches Inlet — at the bottom of Macquarie Harbour (south of Strahan) over summer. So if you're a keen birder or just interested in participating in this program please contact Mark Holdsworth Ph: 03 6233 6033, Email: <Mark.Holdsworth@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>. The locations are stunning and the work is assisting the recovery of one of Tasmania's threatened species.

The shifts vary in lengths and are filling quickly as it is a highly sought after program to be involved in, so contact Mark ASAP to avoid missing out. Given the isolated locations there are some pre-requisites that need to be approved for this activity, including holding a current First Aid certificate.

Their efforts are those of the classic quiet achievers, who get on with the job in hand without fuss or drama, although their calm heads have been needed at times of high drama such as during walker rescues in the area. But there is no way we could let these high achievers drift off quietly to wander wistfully through the landscape that they obviously love. Not without saying thank you.

Parks and Wildlife staff involved with the program also attended the dinner, including; Cradle Parks and Wildlife Rangers Eddie Firth and Bob Hamilton, Research Officer Statistics — Sue Rundle; the newly appointed OT Senior Ranger and Project Officer Kent McConnell and Sandra Wight; and last but not least Tim Dyer District Volunteer Facilitator-NW (now finished).

After an enjoyable meal the happy gang retreated to the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre where we reflected on the past

years activities and had an awards ceremony with a difference. Wardens were given chocolates if they had the best story about a) the worst prepared walker(s) to arrive at Waterfall, b) the most involved rescue, c) the noisiest hut occupant etc.

Well done and thank you to all of the **WILDCARE** Inc volunteers who have contributed so many hours of their time (61,900 + hours this year alone) to the program over the seven years. For the number crunchers, multiply this by \$20 per hour and then by 7 years to get an idea of the volunteer commitment to the Parks and Wildlife Service and its visitors. 🌲



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Springtime Getaways!

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STAFF AT the Southern District Office at Huonville are inviting **WILDCARE** members to join them in the field at two maintenance working bees this spring.

Working bees will be held at the Quarantine Station, North Bruny Island and at Cockle Creek, Southwest National Park.

District volunteer facilitator Craig Saunders explained that the working bees are a chance for **WILDCARE** members to meet Parks staff in the workplace, to discuss reserve management and maintenance issues and to help out with priority maintenance in each of these two areas.

In each case the working bees will run from Saturday morning until Wednesday afternoon, giving volunteers a range of opportunities to join in. Come for a day, the weekend or the whole five days. PWS will provide a barbecue lunch on the Sunday afternoon and there will be time allowed at each location for exploring and depending on the weather swimming and fishing. Further details for each location are given below.

MORE INFO: If you are interested in joining PWS staff at either working bee, register by calling district volunteers facilitator Craig Saunders — Ph: 03 6264 8463, Email: <Craig.Saunders@parks.tas.gov.au>.

Bruny Island Quarantine Station Working Bee

Saturday 16 October 2004 to Wednesday 20 October 2004

The Bruny Island Quarantine Station is located on Bruny Island on the northern shores of Barnes Bay. The station has a long and varied history, first opening in about 1886 as a site for quarantining immigrants arriving in the colony. In the First World War (1914–1918) the station was used as an internment camp for German nationals and then again as a quarantine station for soldiers returning from the war in Europe during the influenza epidemics of 1918–1921.

Human quarantine activities ceased in the 1950s after which the station was used for plant quarantine over the period 1971–1986. The station passed from Commonwealth to State

government control in 2000.

The Quarantine Station State Reserve was proclaimed in 1998 as part of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process. The area has significant natural values as an area of largely undisturbed blue-gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and white-gum (*E.viminalis*) forest as well as the cultural heritage values associated with the quarantine station.



This picture (originally published in the Weekly Courier, 20 Feb 1919) shows returned soldiers queuing for a meal at the Bruny Island Quarantine Station in 1919, and is taken from an excellent history of the station in the Conservation Management Plan prepared in June 2000.

The station is currently managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service, with on-site volunteer caretakers. The site comprises buildings from the various past uses, some roads, fences, and a large dam all set in pleasant open bluegum forest. For the proposed working bee maintenance activities will include building maintenance, fencing and weed control.

PWS will supply Sunday lunch and cooking facilities (including water) for other meals. There is some space on a concrete floor for sleeping but a tent/sleeping bag/sleeping mat is recommended if staying overnight.

Cockle Creek Working Bee

Saturday 13 November 2004 to Wednesday 17 November 2004

Cockle Creek is located at the southern extremity of the road passing south through Huonville, Geeveston, Dover, Southport and Lune River. It is one of the road access points to the Southwest National Park and the eastern end of the South Coast Track.

Cockle Creek has a long association with the whaling, timber and commercial fishing industries, but today most visitors come to the area for recreation including quiet beaches, 'free' camping, good fishing and bushwalking.

For this working bee maintenance activities will include campground maintenance and weed control.

PWS will supply bunk or floor accommodation in the PWS staff quarters (or free camping), Sunday lunch and cooking facilities for other meals. 🌱

WILDSC'OOOL

AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE members gave a high priority to the establishment of the WILDSC'OOOL program. We have begun preliminary work on the concept and have very recently submitted an application for funding to the Tasmanian Community Fund.

Program Outline

The WILDSC'OOOL program design has the following components:

- Volunteer Educator Training

- Trained Volunteer Educators supporting their local school
- Partnership Agreements between volunteer educators and schools
- Essential Learnings (ELs) related Education materials for teachers
- An assessment and selection process for prospective participating schools
- Classroom Environmental Education
- Schoolyard planting (native plants)
- Partnerships between schools and local land holders and/or reserves for on-ground nature conservation action



- A WILDSC'OOOL grants program to schools to support their WILDSC'OOOL activities

Steering Committee and reference group

I would like to put together a band of dedicated and knowledgeable **WILDCARE** Inc members to be the Project Steering Committee in order to plan, develop and implement the program.

I would also like to have a wider Reference List of members who would like to contribute to the design and planning process but who may not be able to participate at the level of the Steering Committee due to time and location constraints.

The Steering Committee will meet and operate predominantly in Hobart, although it would be feasible for Reference List members to take on specific elements of the planning and development process in other locations.

If our application for funding is successful we will be able to employ a Project Officer to lead the process, and do much of the work. If we are unsuccessful with the funding application it will be necessary to develop a mechanism to run the process on a voluntary basis.

Interested?

Have you a background in education and teaching? Have you a passion for environmental education in schools? Have you enough time to be a member of a hard working and dedicated Steering Committee? Would you like to be on the Reference List for this program?

If so, you are invited to a meeting to:

- Create the Steering Committee and Reference List.
- Discuss more about the program and how things will progress
- Develop a project plan and timetable.

Time: 3pm

Date: 28th October (Hobart location to be confirmed).


RSVP: Andrew Smith <acochair@wildcaretas.org.au>, Ph: 03 6233 2836 (work), Mob: 0419 361 876 (message bank). 

The Great Australian Bushwalk — Premier Paul Lennon invited to participate!!

TASMANIA JOINS IN THIS YEAR! THE Great Australian Bushwalk is a national event brought to you by a nationwide consortium of National Parks Associations. It is a free, day-long event with bushwalks held in different locations throughout Australia.

The Great Australian Bushwalk is a ground breaking project, with the potential to become as much a part of our collective psyche as "Clean Up Australia Day". There has never been a yearly; one-day event dedicated to bushwalking. The Great Australian Bushwalk brings together the community to celebrate this healthy activity that promotes many of the values underlying the Australian way of life.


History of the Great Australian Bush Walk

This event was created by the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) a non-profit, non-government organisation dedicated to protecting the natural areas of NSW. NSW Premier Bob Carr, the Great Australian Bushwalk Patron, launched the event on 25 October 2003. 

MORE INFO: For more information or to register for the walks on offer please go to the following website <www.greataustralianbushwalk.org.au>, or pick up a flyer from one of the Tasmanian Visitor Information Centres. **WILDCARE** inc volunteers will be leading a number of walks in Tasmania.

Penguin Hotline

THE DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM HAS launched a Penguin Hotline aimed at gathering information from the public on the Derwent River's penguins. People calling the Penguin Hotline will assist in ensuring the future of penguins in the Derwent. Information gathered will be used to determine how best to care for penguins and their habitat on the Derwent foreshore. The aim is to record


where penguins nested in the past, and where they nest today in the Derwent. The Penguin Hotline is 0427 PENGUIN (0427 736 484). Penguins once thrived in the Derwent estuary, but due to extensive foreshore development their numbers are now critically low. The penguins that remain are highly vulnerable to attacks by dogs and cats. 

New CAREs group!

A CARES GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED for Wellington Park. The Wellington Park Bushcare Group which has been operating within the park for the last couple of years, recently became a CAREs group, with Mike Bowden taking on the role of President and Peter Franklin as Secretary.

The major activities of the group have been weed eradication within various parts of Wellington Park and this will continue. There are parts of the park that are not very frequently visited, including old disturbed sites, and one of

the functions of the group is to walk to these locations to check for any weed invasions, and other possible problems. There is also scope for the group to take on a more active role with inspecting the state of the track network and in minor track and vegetation maintenance.

WILDCARE members interested in helping can contact — Mike at Email: <embowden@dodo.com.au>, or Peter at Email: <peterfranklin@iprimus.com.au>. 

By: Peter Franklin, Secretary, Wellington Part CAREs group.

Marakoopa clean-up

SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE KARSTCARE group met in Mole Creek on Saturday June 19 with Parks Officer Paul Flood for a general cleanup of the tourist sections of Marakoopa Cave.

Using cave packs lined with plastic bags

the group methodically worked through each section of the cave collecting any "foreign materials". This included lots of wiring off-cuts, broken light globes, bits of wood and sweet-wrappers. A considerable amount of collecting

involved the cavers climbing in high sections of the cave and down drop-offs below the tourist walk way.

Some of the more interesting items included an old tin full of candles and a 100v insulator left from a previous wiring job. 🌿

By: David Wools-Cobb, Coordinator, KarstCARE.



Marakoopa Junk.



Jessica Woods.



Paula Baurass.



Paula Flood.

Schouten Island 1880 Hut Restoration — 10–13th June 2004

AFTER MUCH PLANNING, INCLUDING delivery of 1 tonne of timber to Coles Bay, the **WILDCARE** group of 11 were looking forward to the trip to Schouten Island. The trip was initially planned for late April but was aborted on the day with gale force winds blowing across the bay, preventing departure. The winds

continued for about five days.

Thursday the 10th. June started with light winds, and after an early trip by the Parks boat the rest of the group (9 people) left Coles Bay at 10.30 on board the charter boat, the 'Kahala' for Schouten Island. Some of the

passengers being first time visitors to the island. On arrival we were transferred ashore by rubber 'duckie' with all our gear and building materials. The timber and rainwater tank had been delivered by the Parks boat several weeks before.

Through **WILDCARE** funding of \$2,500 timber was delivered from Forcett to Coles Bay, paint and other building materials were purchased and spouting was ordered from Melbourne via Hobart. The major jobs were to re-clad the exterior walls, wall stud replacement, underpinning sections of the walls, spouting, connecting





downpipes to a rainwater tank and painting the roof. The project was to help preserve the 1880s hut behind the main house at Morey's beach. The hut over the years had been vandalised with timber removed and burnt. With the removal of the weatherboards water damage has occurred to the interior lining of hessian and paper on some walls. With the new work completed this should encourage the community to appreciate the historic values of the two buildings and their significance to Schouten Island. Suitable signage will be put in place at the site.

After much preparation work on the sub surface of the walls the group was divided into smaller working parties working on various sections of the hut — realigning the walls, cladding,



painting the new weatherboards (fence paling profile), spouting, downpipes, and rust proofing sections of the roof then painting.

With our mini tent city set up, with a generator for lights and power sawing, we utilised the main house for cooking. The four days on the island were mostly

fine and sunny — a few short walks were undertaken to Bear Hill and the waterfall, and still all the work was completed on time with much confabulation over the building process. Further work in Spring (not finalised yet) will undercoat the exterior timber and complete the 'sandwich wall' on the site of the brick chimney on the western wall.

Thanks go to **WILDCARE**, the Parks rangers/staff at Coles Bay and the **WILDCARE** volunteers who gave up 4

days to help complete the project.

Ranger: Pete Lingard. Volunteers: David, Jenny Boyer, Helen Gee, Bob Graham, Tom & Alice Graham, Alan Sanderson, Thomas Delapanouse (overseas volunteer), David & Trauti Reynolds. 🌱

By: David Reynolds.

Friends Of Maatsuyker Island Weeding Project

MAATSUYKER ISLAND IS AN ISLAND OF around 180 hectares located approximately 10 kilometres off the remote south west coast of Tasmania. The island has a rugged, steep and rocky coastline and, apart from the areas cleared for a lighthouse station, is covered by dense, scrubby vegetation. The island is part of the Southwest National Park and Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

WILDCARE CAREs group Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI) has recently been successful in securing funds from the Australian Government's Envirofund

for a weeding program on the island in November 2004. Weeds on the island of course were introduced through human impacts, and have spread outwards from the light station to now threaten native vegetation and seabird habitat.

FOMI member and manager of the weeding project, Karen Ziegler, explained that the principal weeds were blackberry and montbretia.

"We all know blackberry but montbretia is a weed not so commonly known but unfortunately very widespread. It is a member of the lily family, and has flat

soft leaves growing to around 1 metre with masses of trumpet-shaped orange/red flowers. It has a large underground 'corm' which makes control very difficult. Any soil disturbance is likely to spread the weed and since it invades shearwater (mutton bird) colonies it is a serious problem on Maatsuyker Island", Karen said.

WILDCARE volunteers will travel to the island for two weeks in early November, a period when returning shearwaters generally vacate the island to feed up at sea prior to egg laying. All transport will be by helicopter and the volunteers will live in one of the three comfortable houses previously used as light keepers' residences. 🌱

By: Craig Saunders, PWS Huonville.

Bushwalker numbers

WE COME UP WITH THESE WALKER numbers from combinations of logbooks, track counters and walker surveys. From the logbooks we know how many people register for a walk. We can match that against the counter reading for that track so we obtain an idea of how reliable the logbook information is. Information from the counters and from walker surveys provides an idea of the proportion of total walkers for that track.

For places like the Overland we do not rely on just one logbook. Lots of people walk parts of the Overland, not just the whole track between Cradle and Narcissus. In this case we check the Ronnie Creek, Waldheim and Lake Dove day and overnight books, the overnight books at Lake St Clair, the Walls, Arm River, Lees Paddocks, Moses Creek, Never Never and Lake Bill logbooks. Those last five logbooks are the ones looked after by Wildcare members Brian Hughes, Lyn Nolan and Colin Rowe. All these logbooks are cross matched to make sure that parties that sign in and out in different logbooks aren't counted multiple times.

Here's what the stats are telling us.

Over the past few years there have been about 24,000 walkers a year going on overnight trips in the WHA (note we say 'about' — it would be absolute nonsense for us to say we know exactly how many

people are out there! We think we have a reasonable idea given the level of resources we have). Two thirds of these walks occur north of the Lyell Highway.

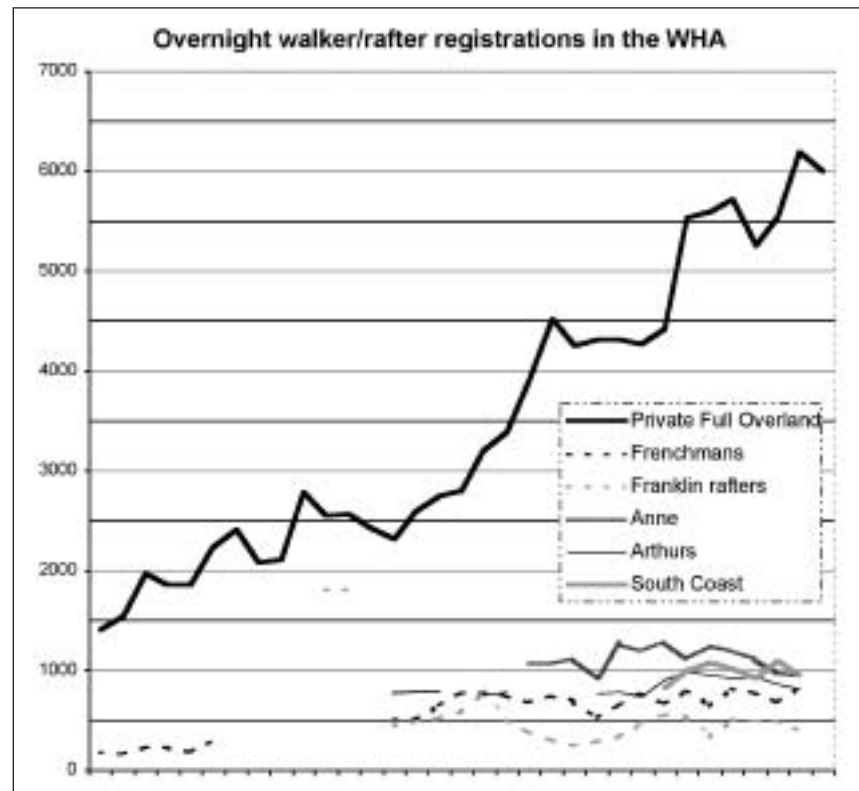
The graph below illustrates how the demand for various tracks has changed with time. The moral of the story is that the change of use for Southwest and Wild Rivers destinations since the mid-late '80s is very different to that on the Overland. On this scale there hasn't

been that much change for the Southwest and Wild Rivers while Overland numbers have doubled between 1990/1 and 2002/3. 🌱

Notes:

1. Full Overland is Cradle to Narcissus and vice versa. This excludes commercial walkers.
2. Franklin rafters includes commercial and non commercial parties. The weird little blip in the early '80s represents the flurry of activity around the blockade.
3. There are about 3,500 overnight walkers accessing the Walls from Trappers Hut. (not shown because the legend fitted nicely just where the Walls data would show.)

MORE INFO: Sue Rundle, Email: <Susan.Rundle@parks.tas.gov.au>.



Are you a *WILDCARE*r passionate about the coast?

COASTCARE FACILITATORS ARE BACK on the ground in Tasmania. If you are a Wildcarer interested in working on the coast or further offshore, now is a good time to get together with other interested *WILDCARE*rs and meet with your nearest Coastcare facilitator to discuss what sort of activities you would like to be involved in. Whether you'd like to give an existing Coastcare group a hand, start your own project, or just need some advice on how to tackle a problem don't hesitate to contact us.

Now is a great time to give the coast some TLC!

Where to find your Coastcare Facilitator

Northern NRM Region

Jane Rapkins

C/- West Tamar Council
P.O. Box 59, Beaconsfield, TAS 7270
Ph: 03 6383 6355
Fax: 03 6383 6384
Mob: 0427 836 354

North West Region

Anna Wind

Hosted by the Burnie City Council
P.O. Box 973, Burnie TAS 7320
Ph: 03 64 305 782
Fax: 03 64 305 797
Mob: 0429 311 101
Email: <awind@burnie.net>.

Southern Region

Melanie Fazackerley and Kristy Blackburn

GPO Box 44, Hobart TAS 7001
Ph: 03 6233 2185
Fax: 03 6223 8603
Email: <melanie.fazackerley@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>
Email: <kristy.blackburn@dpiwet.tas.gov.au>. 🌱

Renew for 2005 sometime between now and December

YOUR **WILDCARE** INC MEMBERSHIP can be renewed for 2005 anytime between now and the end of December. Due to changes with the Parks and Wildlife Service Annual Park Pass Renewal forms you will not be able to use that form to renew your **WILDCARE** membership. It is therefore essential that you renew using the enclosed **WILDCARE** Membership Renewal Form. There will be another in

the December newsletter if you want to leave it closer to the end of the Membership year (December 31). Renewing now means that you are purchasing membership valid until December 2005. Renewing now also means that when you come to purchase your Annual Park Pass (whenever it is due) you will be able to quote your **WILDCARE** Inc membership number and claim a \$20 discount — (see article

about the new Park Entry Fees.)

It's also a great time for new members to join, as they will receive 16 months membership for the price of 12 months. So if you have a friend who is thinking about joining, encourage them to drop into a Service Tasmania Shop and complete a Membership Form, with all their details and preferences.

WILDCARE Inc Membership Renewal Form (2005)

Complete and mail to **WILDCARE** Inc, c/- GPO Box 44 Hobart 7001

Preferred reserve/place (if you have one)

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Contact Phone number:

.....

Circle volunteer activity categories you wish to add to your record.

CARes — Community Action in Reserves: General management assistance, Adopt-a-Track Program, Enterprise projects, Visitor Education, Walking hut maintenance, Habitat Care, Action for Coasts, Cave Care.

If the above details have changed since you renewed/joined in 2004 please provide your previous address details so that we can find you on the membership database.

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Please leave my background information and volunteer preference unchanged on the database.

Please update my record with the following additions...

Naturecare — conserving Tasmania's plants and animals:

Whale rescue, Oil Spill response, Raptor research, Wildlife survey, Threatened species assistance, Data records (computer), Community education, Fox eradication assistance, Land For Wildlife, Caring for injured/orphaned animals.

Botanical Guardians: Monitoring, Survey, Replanting, Propagation, Field collection, Community education, Orchid Guardians program.

Heritagecare — conserving Tasmania's cultural heritage:

Site recording, Data records (computer), Archival research, Excavation assistance, Community education, Historic site management.

Fishcare — promoting a sustainable fishery: Fishcare North West, Fishcare North, Fishcare South, Office support, Community education, Schools education, Research assistance.

WILDCARE Inc Office: Special event assistance, Administrative assistance, Member records, Newsletter production.

Payment method

Cheque or money order attached \$25 made out to **WILDCARE** Inc

Please arrange \$25 payment from my Credit Card

Card Type:

.....

Card Number:

.....

Card Expiry Date:

Name on Card:

.....

Signature of Cardholder:

.....



Thankyou!

WILDCARE wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support of the *WILDCARE* Fund

Gold Sponsors (\$10,000 plus)

Parks and Wildlife Service

Category 2 sponsors (\$5000–\$9999)

Resource Management & Conservation

Category 3 sponsors (\$1000–\$4999)

Malcolm Murchison

Forestry Tasmania

Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council

And the following *WILDCARE* member-discount sponsors

Parks and Wildlife Service – \$20 discount on Annual Park Pass

Snowgum equipment – 10% discount

Platypus Park, Country Retreat, Bridport – 15% discount

Par Avion Wilderness Flights – 10% discount

Eaglehawk Neck Backpackers – \$2 discount per night

Moonpads – 10% discount Gemstones at Lune River – 10% discount

Tyenna Valley Lodge – 10% discount

The Possum Shed, Westerway – 10% discount on all gifts

Eaglehawk Cafe – 10% discount (on meals over \$20.00 excludes alcohol)

Cartledge Agency – 8% discount (refer to advertisement)

(To claim your discount, simply present your *WILDCARE* member card.)

We are looking for other sponsors, both for the *WILDCARE* Fund and as discounters. Know someone who you think might be interested? Why not have a chat to them and suggest they contact **Andrew Smith at Community Partnerships Section** for more details (Ph 03 6233 2836 — GPO Box 44 Hobart 7001).

Tasmanian Trail Guidebook – Tasmanian Trail

This essential guide will give walkers, bicyclists and horse riders all the information needed to travel all or part of the unique **Tasmanian Trail**.

Detailed trail notes cover each stage of the journey, providing concise directions and information on access, campsites and facilities. Distances are given for trips in either direction, while each stage is supplemented with detailed maps.

Planning, safety and environmental issues are all thoroughly covered.

Fascinating snippets of information on the natural and cultural features you will discover along the trail are liberally spread throughout the book.

If you are contemplating a full traverse of the state or just a day trip, this book is a must.

Recommended Retail Price: \$22.00. Order through the *WILDCARE* Office, GPO Box 44 Hobart 7001. Please make cheques payable to The Tasmanian Trail Association.

ISBN 9 318923 009651